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Abele Names Kerry Mitchell as Director of New County Human Resources Department

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Chris Abele on Tuesday named longtime corporate HR director Kerry Mitchell to lead the county's personnel operations as head of its newly created Human Resources Department.

Mitchell worked in a number of senior-level human resources positions over 19 years for U.S. Bank and its predecessor companies. Before interviewing for the county post, she managed human resources teams and supported up to 5,000 employees in corporate divisions across 29 states for the bank.

"Kerry has led numerous human resource initiatives, managed personnel for a variety of business units and worked on many major issues as she rose through the ranks of U.S. Bank," Abele said. "Her depth of experience makes her an excellent choice to head our new Human Resources Department and spearhead new initiatives within the county."

Mitchell said, "Milwaukee County has long been an engine of growth and opportunity in the state of Wisconsin. I am thrilled and honored to be offered the opportunity to serve this vibrant community. I look forward to working with Chris Abele, the County Board, county managers and employees to help ensure ongoing efficiency, quality and customer service."

A reorganization that Abele included in his proposed 2012 budget consolidates the current Department of Administrative Services' divisions of human resources and employee benefits into the new cabinet-level department.

Mitchell earned a master's degree in management and organizational behavior from Silver Lake College in Manitowoc. She earned a bachelor's in psychology and business from St. Norbert College in De Pere.

She currently serves on The New North's Attract, Retain & Develop Committee, the Fox Valley Technical College's Business Advisory Board and the Human Resources Leadership Roundtable.

The appointment requires County Board confirmation.

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